United Nations ST/IC/1998/81*

Secretariat

27 November 1998

Information circular**

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: **United Nations Staff Relief Committee for Victims of Hurricane Mitch**

1. During the last week of October, several countries in Central America were struck by Hurricane Mitch. Approximately 15,000 people lost their lives, another 15,000 are missing, 45,000 were injured and more than a million were left homeless after the hurricane hit mainly Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. The extensive damage to the agricultural sector has left much of the population, especially in Honduras and Nicaragua, without food, and the destruction of roads and bridges has hindered rescue efforts. The total reported damage exceeds $3 billion. Many survivors had to wait several days to be rescued and, as a result, are in need of medical attention.

2. With the approval of the Secretary-General and the support of the Staff Committee, the United Nations staff at Headquarters have formed the United Nations Staff Relief Committee for Victims of Hurricane Mitch to appeal for funds to alleviate the suffering of the victims. Ms. Rosemarie Waters (Staff Committee) is the Chairperson of the Committee, with Mr. Patrick West (Office of Internal Oversight Services) as the Treasurer, Mr. Clarence Clarke (Staff Committee) as the Coordinator, and Ms. Edna Duvivier (United Nations Development Programme), Ms. Carmen Lucia Salguero (United Nations Development Programme), Ms. Nubia Soto (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) and Ms. Fabiola Knight (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) as members.

3. Cash contributions will be collected on Monday, 30 November 1998. An account has also been established by the Treasurer at the Chase Manhattan Bank, where staff can make direct deposits to the following:

Staff Relief Committee for Victims of Hurricane Mitch
Account No. 015500960965[1]

4. Staff who are overseas and would like to contribute can do so by sending a wire transfer to the account number given above, using ABA No. 021000021, United Nations, New York, New York, 10017.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

** Expiration date of the present information circular: 31 December 1998.

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5. On this Thanksgiving, it is important to remember those who can give thanks only for having their lives spared but who have lost everything else. Contributions will be donated through an appropriate relief agency.

Notes

[1] Deposits can be made at any branch of Chase Manhattan Bank.